



Environmental Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

Time Critical Removal Action L-Area Burning/Rubble Pit

The Department of Energy (DOE) began a Time Critical Removal Action at the Savannah River Site's (SRS) L-Area Burning/Rubble Pit (LBRP) in July 1998. Between 1951 and 1973, SRS used the LBRP to burn a variety of wastes including paper, plastics, wood, cardboard and organic material. When burning operations ceased, the residues from burning were covered with a layer of soil and the LBRP was backfilled with rubble including concrete, scrap metal, paper, lumber, empty drums and zinc-mercury batteries. No known or suspected radioactive materials were allowed in the pit. The area was then filled to present grade with soil.

Some of the buried waste (zinc-mercury batteries) is now considered hazardous waste. While characterizing the area in April 1998, SRS uncovered typical rubble materials and a large number of gray plastic, zinc-mercury, wet cell batteries. The Time Critical Removal Action will recover the batteries remaining in the LBRP. This will minimize potential threats to site workers and preclude any future release to the environment. The soil below the batteries will be investigated to ensure that all of the batteries have been removed. The disturbed areas of the waste site will be seeded in accordance with U.S. Forest Service guidance for the SRS.

SRS will manage the zinc-mercury

batteries as hazardous waste. All packaging, marking, manifesting and shipping will be in accordance with applicable regulations. The batteries will be shipped off site and processed by an EPA approved mercury recycling contractor.

A Removal Site Evaluation Report (RSER), completed under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), details how this removal action is being completed and is available for public review beginning August 3, at the following locations:

- DOE Public Reading Room at the Gregg-Graniteville Library at the University of South Carolina-Aiken in Aiken, SC;
- Thomas Cooper Library Government Documents Department at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC;
- Reese Library at Augusta State University in Augusta, GA; and
- Asa H. Gordon Library at Savannah State University in Savannah, GA.

The RSER is available on the Internet at the SRS Home Page (<http://www.srs.gov>), under "Happening Now", (<http://www.srs.gov/general/srs-home.htm>) and on the SRS Environmental Restoration Home Page under "Public Involvement", (<http://www.srs.gov/general/srenviro/erd/pub/pubinv.html>).

Modifications requested

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)-Savannah River Operations Office has requested from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) modifications to Savannah River Site's (SRS) 1992 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Part B Permit Renewal Application for Volume I, General Information, and Volume VII, Mixed Waste Management Facility.

The revision for Volume I (Rev. 7) includes an updated Appendix 6. The revision for Volume VII (Rev. 5) addresses SCDHEC comments on previously submitted changes.

This notice begins a 60-day comment period. More information, including the actual permit application, is available for review and copying at the DOE Public Reading Room located in the University of South Carolina-Aiken library, or by contacting personnel listed below. The permittee's compliance history during the life of the permit being modified is available from the Agency contact person.

A public meeting will be held September 15 at 3:00 p.m. at the Aiken County Public Library. Representatives from SRS will be available to answer questions.

Comments?

Contact Mary Flora
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For more information on this or other
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